



## Parent/Carer Staff Forum

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Item	Summary
Parent/Carer Forum	<p>The Parent/Carer Forum will take place on the second Wednesday of each half term. All are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Next meeting <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 5-6pm</b></p> <p>Parents/carers have asked that regular text reminders are sent out in advance of the meetings.</p>
Update on previous items	<p><b>Uniform</b> – the new Uniform Policy will be shared with parents/carers via the website this term.</p> <p><b>Extra-curricular matters</b> – The “what’s on” section of the website should now be more up to date and accurate. Parents/carers queried the future of the NLA building. Mrs Gibson continues to look into the future of the building and will keep parents/carers informed. Parent/carers queried why there was little music and drama activities on offer. A Music teacher has now been appointed for September.</p> <p><b>Curriculum Matters</b> - Parents/carers asked that Year 8 pupils were fully supported to ensure they make good Option choices. Feedback from Options Parents’ Evening, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, said the event was “informative and professional”. Concern was raised over the teaching and progress in Science. Hopefully parents/carers will be able to see improvement in the progress their child is making in Science.</p> <p><b>Primary to Secondary Transition</b> - Parents/carers felt that stronger links need to be forged with all partner primary schools. Mrs Gibson has continued to promote this and is looking at ways of involving Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in transition activities. Feedback from parents/carers on how to improve the transition programme has been acted upon with this year’s planning. Parents/carers are thanked for their input.</p> <p><b>Praise and Rewards</b> - Parents/carers asked if rewards for good attendance could be more explicit. This is being looked at as part of the whole school review of rewards.</p> <p><b>Assessment and Reporting</b> - Parents/carers of Year 10 pupils have received reports on-line using the new Go 4 Schools assessment package and have given positive feedback.</p> <p><b>Website and Social Media</b> - Parents/carers thought that a Facebook page would also be of benefit. The school is in the process of setting this up.</p> <p><b>School buses</b> - Parents/carers asked Mrs Gibson to investigate the fact the school buses appear to leave school very early. This should now be more to time.</p>

Assessment and Reporting	<p>The new style reports issued to Year 11 and Year 10 parents/carers were positively received but parents/carers asked that they be issued in a timelier manner. Mrs Gibson explained the late issue was a result of ensuring the reports were accurate and informative, and the fact that there had been some technical errors with the printing. This should not be the case once the reports are fully electronic. Parents/carers were reminded to ensure the school has an up to date email address.</p> <p>It was suggested that staff photos be linked to names on the report if possible. Mrs Gibson explained this would not be possible as the system did not allow this. It was then suggested that a notice board could be used at Parents' Evenings to show the photo of the member of staff along with their name. Mrs Gibson agreed to look into this.</p>
Parents' Evenings	<p>Parents/carers who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening commented that holding the event upstairs in classrooms was much better than in the hall. All agreed that the hall was not a good venue as it lacked privacy. Mrs Gibson said that the school would trial this again with other year groups.</p> <p>Parents/carers also commented that they had, on occasion, in Science, been given conflicting information from different teachers. Mrs Gibson said she would feed this back to Dr Bulmer, Subject Lead for Science.</p>
Curriculum Matters	<p>Parents/carers queried the reasons behind any staffing changes. Mrs Gibson explained that there were a number of reasons for this e.g. promoted post, relocation for family or other reasons, ill-health, retirement, opportunities to travel the world etc., the same as with any other job. Mrs Gibson reassured parents/carers that the school have had no issues with staffing and that any staff who are leaving will be replaced so as not to compromise the education of the pupils.</p> <p>Concern raised by parents/carers in relation to Year 8 Science classes was reported to have been addressed by the teacher who was praised in the meeting.</p> <p>Concern was still raised at the quality of after-school revision sessions for Year 11 pupils. Mrs Gibson said she would feed this back to staff and would monitor the situation. Mrs Gibson reminded parents/carers of the revision programme on offer in the run up to the exams.</p> <p>Concern was also raised at the historical quality of Science education, particularly Physics, which some pupils had received due to the number of supply teachers the class had had. Mrs Gibson acknowledged that pupils had also expressed this concern and that focussed revision was being put in place for this class and Mrs Gibson would be taking some of these sessions and would be taking some classes in the run up to the exam. It was requested that the pupils received a letter explaining the staffing situation to help pupils who are applying for jobs where science is specified. Mrs Gibson agreed to look into whether it would be possible to appropriately word such a letter.</p>
Primary to Secondary Transition	<p>A parent of a Year 7 pupil who has SEN gave praise to the school, stating that her child had never been so well supported and understood. They had been given lots of support and were thoroughly enjoying school. Mrs Gibson said she would feed this back to all staff.</p> <p>Praise was also given to the use of the all-girls and all-boys tutor group to help boost confidence and support transition. It was felt to be a great success.</p> <p>Parents/carers also felt keeping the same tutor had a positive impact on their child.</p>